REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 18, 21-35, 37-40, 47, 48, 50 and 52-54 – as well as the indication of allowable subject matter at dependent claims 4-10 and 14-16 – is appreciatively noted. No further comment will be made with respect to this allowed subject matter.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement for the phrase "comparing only the leading portion of the coded response with a part of the buffer contents" is respectfully traversed.

The phrase now put at issue will be found *verbatim* in applicants' original claim 1 – which, of course, constitutes a part of the "specification" (i.e., the concluding portion of the specification).

The applicants' specification goes out of its way to provide considerably more enablement detail (including even program code) than is found in the large majority of U.S. patent applications. There are numerous exemplary embodiments disclosed throughout the specification and a great many of them (if not all) teach various arrangements for comparing recognized user responses with the previously accumulated contents of a buffer at plural different alignments between the recognized

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incoming digits and the then-current buffer contents – almost always permitting at least

some of said comparisons to involve comparing only a leading portion of the input

response with a part of the buffer contents already uttered by the speech generation

means earlier in the dialog process. For example, at page 14, lines 11 et seq., a

situation is described where the recognized input speech has too many digits –

indicating possibly that the recognized input was intended to replace, rather than follow,

the digits previously recognized and echoed. To cope with this, a finalRepair process is

applied at 244 (Fig. 2). As described at page 15, lines 11 et seq., the finalRepair

algorithm attempts to repair an over-length telephone number in the buffer by looking for

a pair of consecutively entered blocks that are similar enough to be a plausible error

and replacement pair, and deletes the first of the two if it finds them. The recognized

input utterance is formulated in terms of "blocks" which are then considered as potential

replacements for all or part of previous blocks as described in following text at least

some alignment comparisons involving only a leading portion of the incoming response

with a part of the buffer contents already echoed.

The applicants have also described how a current input block can be divided into

"chunks" and Fig. 4 is a flow chart illustrating a chunked confirmation sub-dialog which

may be used with the dialog of Fig. 2. Such is described with more particularity at page

22, lines 1 et seq. Note the use of variable pointer values (e.g., see Fig. 5) to define

different chunks of the input. At step 702 (see Fig. 4), a chunk is removed from the start

of the remainder. Thus, a leading chunk can be removed from the remainder at step 702 and then played back to the user (e.g., see step 703) for subsequent confirmation/correction. Once the chunk is confirmed, then processing returns to step 702 for the processing of further chunks (although in subsequent iterations, the chunks will of course not come from the leading portion of the incoming recognized utterance).

Another embodiment includes, *inter alia,* comparing only a leading portion of the incoming recognized utterance with a part of the buffer contents already uttered earlier in the dialog. See, for example, the *localRepair* (input) box in Fig. 9 followed by an alignment process which includes, *inter alia,* possible alignment of a first chunk with a part of the buffer contents already uttered, etc.

See also other embodiments described, for example, at page 55, lines 22 *et seq.,* where attempts are made to find the best alignment of the input against the token buffer, and at page 58, lines 16 *et seq.,* which explicitly refers to measures of similarity being calculated as a part of the alignment processes in conjunction with graphical representations such as that in Fig. 16 representing the measure of similarity "costs" for paths involving various different alignments so that a minimum "cost" path can be chosen for deletion, insertion, substitution, etc. See also the detailed discussion of *finalRepair* embodiments starting at page 65, line 11 – culminating in pseudo-code for various repair processes starting at page 68 of the specification. See also the appendix

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A regarding chunk decision and play-back algorithms setting forth still further pseudo-code which detects and removes and returns UK standard codes at the start of a block.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 11-13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Gamm '887 is again respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is thanked for providing a "response to arguments" section at pages 2-3 of the last office action. However, the Examiner's reliance upon Gamm at 2:15-48 is believed to be misplaced. Indeed, the portion quoted by the Examiner appears to teach that the entirety of the incoming shorter sequence is compared for alignment with a part of the buffer contents already echoed back to the caller. This is, of course, contrary to the claim 1 requirement, wherein at least some of the comparisons involve comparing only a leading portion of a recognized input string, etc.

It is noted that the Examiner "contends that comparing the partial second character sequence which are part of the first sequence character in Gamm is analogous to the claimed limitation of comparing the leading portion of the input sequence with the buffered one." Although different people can have different ideas about what constitutes an "analogy," one thing is clear, perhaps even from the Examiner's own discussion of Gamm, namely, that Gamm does not anticipate claim 1 for at least the reasons already discussed of record. Accordingly, it is not necessary at this time to identify further additional deficiencies of Gamm with respect to other aspects of the rejected claims. Suffice it to note that rejected claims 2, 3, 11-13 and 17 all
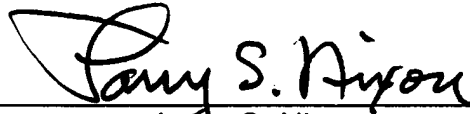
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depend from claim 1 and that, as a matter of law, it is impossible to support even a

prima facie case of anticipation unless the cited reference actually teaches each and

every feature of the rejected claim.

Accordingly, this entire application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a

formal notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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